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PROCEEDINGS

So very many have been doing five days' work and scattering it oer six days.

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Elimination of Pullman Surcharge Will Involve Loss of \$40,000,000 to Railroads and Will Shift the Burden Upon Those Who Do Not Enjoy the Service

THE Senate Committee has reported out favorably the Robinson bill eliminating the Pullman surcharge. This action, while apparently a popular one, is class legislation and as such is bound to involve losses not only to the railroads, but to the traveling public who ride in the day coaches and to a number of communities that now enjoy sleeping car service.

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TO the Railroads, it involves immediately a loss of \$40,000,000 in revenue annually, which will have to be made up somehow. The surcharge is the only revenue that the railroads get for the hauling of the heavier equipment and the incidental special service of parking this equipment at the stations and in coach yards. In fact, the railroads have always had to pay to the Pullman Company a certain small charge for the mileage of each Pullman car and besides a guarantee of a certain minimum of return covering a period of years. All of the returns for berths, etc., go to the Pullman Company excepting the surcharge.

THE surcharge was found necessary by the United States Railroad Administration. Its continuance has been recommended by the Interstate Commerce Commission after an exhaustive study of the entire question of passenger travel returns.

THE Pullman sleeping car after all is a hotel on wheels.

It provides an unusual service. It represents a heavy investment per passenger, and the surcharge of 50 per cent (which latter is the only revenue the railroads derive from this high class service) together, are not out of line with the charge for a room in a modern high class hotel.

In a mouern min class note.

SINCE the Pullman sleeping car passenger enjoys greater comfort than does the passenger in the day coach, he should expect to pay for the added comfort. The Pullman passenger is allotted two and one half times as much space as the person riding in the day coach. The car weight per passenger of the average day coach—assuming that it is filled—is about 6.800 pounds. The car weight per passenger of the average Pullman sleeping car—assuming that sleeper is filled—is about 12,260 pounds. The cost to the railroad of hauling a sleeping car passenger is, therefore, approximately twice as much. Should not the sleeping car passenger is, therefore, approximately trained as much. Should not the sleeping car passenger is, therefore, approximately takes to the passenger and the obligations devolving upon the railroads?

ANOTHER illustration: The sleeping car lines to Michigan resorts in summer and to Florida or California resorts in the winter, are seasonal movements. The travel is all in one direction, which means that the return movement is an empty one.

RAILROADS have only two main sources of income—passenger revenues

THE wiping out of \$40,000,000 annually in passenger revenues involved in the abolition of the surcharge on Pullman fares must inevitably do one of three things—

- 1. Result in cutting down of passenger train service now provided by
- 2. Restricting sleeping car service on the less prosperous lines;

3. Or, shifting the burden of the loss upon the shippers of freight. ANY one of these expedients is unfair to the general public, that section who ride in the day coaches.

IT is a good principle of business at all times to require the person who emoys a special service to pay for that special service.

THE Pullman surcharge requires just that.

THE abolition of the surcharge, therefore, constitutes class or sumptuary legislation, which is not desirable in this day and age.

THE railroads do not object to governmental regulation by the proper tribunal—the Interstate Commerce Commission — constituted to deal with the transportation industry exclusively.

WRITE your senator or congressman to-day protesting against this neconomic and unfair measure. MICHIGAN RAILROAD ASSOCIATION